

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 12, 2004

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF)	DOCKET NO.
AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION)	03-00570
AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL SOUTH)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND MCI)	
WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	

**ORDER APPROVING
THIRD AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 8, 2003, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc.

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on July 15, 2002, and was assigned Docket No. 02-00779. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 19, 2002. The first set of amendments was filed on February 4, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00105 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on April 24, 2003. The second amendment was filed on May 19, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00347 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on July 21, 2003. The third amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed October 28, 2003.

Based upon a review of the third amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the service area of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

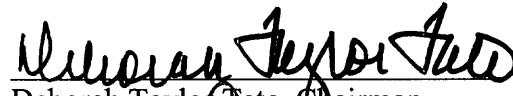
5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

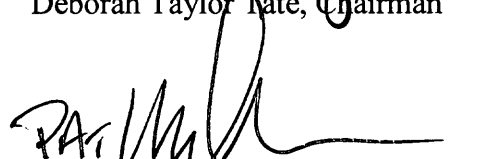
6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

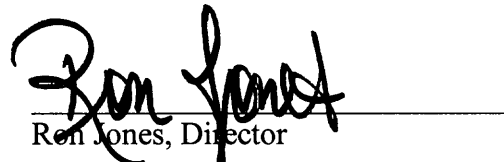
¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman


Pat Miller, Director


Ron Jones, Director